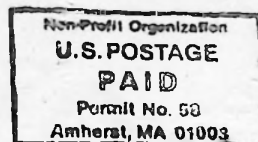


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c/o Everywoman's Center,
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Valley Women's Voice

Dec., 1985

vol. VII, issue X

The Valley Women's Voice Folds ...or Expands!

Only a few short weeks ago, the Valley Women's Voice was facing a crisis of nightmare proportions. No one had showed up to an open meeting we had announced to recruit more volunteers. The meeting had been intended to help us find one or two dedicated women to become staff members (7 hrs./ week, not paid), and more women to come to our monthly productions (one weekend a month). We sat in the nearly empty meeting room and thought, "Why is it that no one has come? Doesn't anyone read the paper? Or do they think it runs by itself?" We were ready to give up the paper, knowing that four staff women and a handful of women doing layout could not put a decent paper together.

We decided, however, that we would give our community one more

quickly a few years ago was thinking more of the bills or tuition she had to pay. We began to understand that it would take more than a polite call for help, it would take a shout.

As we postered the area and talked to friends and acquaintances, a few women volunteered to help who earlier had been too shy, or hadn't thought they had useful enough skills (we train!), or had been putting off volunteering until "sometime". We were also able to explain to women who had thought of us as a huge collective of paid staffwomen that this was hardly the case.

So now the call is not nearly so desperate. If all the women we have met while postered actually do come to the new open meeting, we'll probably be okay, although still in a somewhat shaky position. If more women come, we'll be able to try to become a better paper, with more news and analysis and book reviews, an appeal to a wider group of women, and an even better layout. We'd like to expand rather than fold, so come join us at our open meeting. The Valley Women's Voice is ready for your ideas and input.

We Need Your Voice!

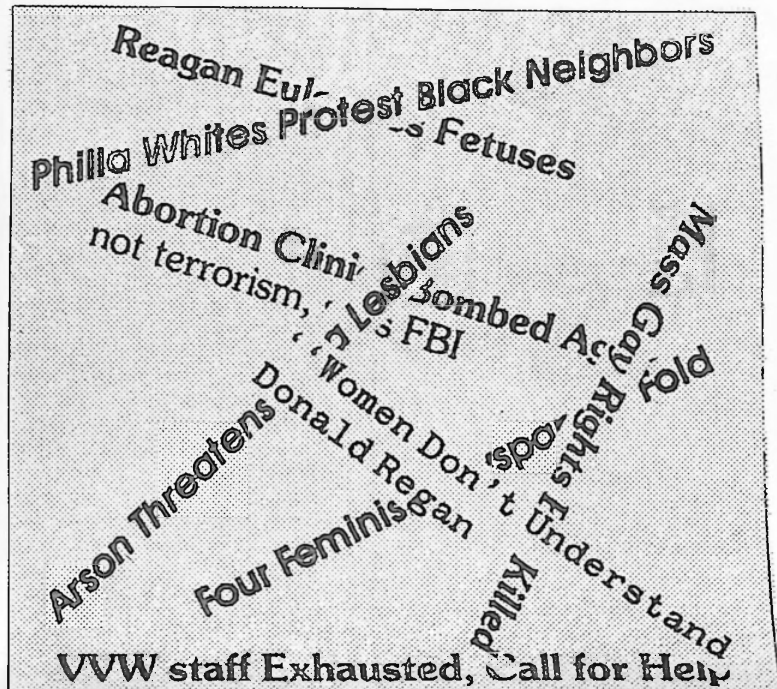
A note on our structure: Editorial decisions are made collectively by the group as a whole -- that means any one who has come to two or more productions or who is a staff member. Being a "staff member" entails more

**Open Meeting Friday
Dec. 6th, 7pm
Campus Center,
UMass 545-2436 for
more info.**

chance to understand that we needed it; we would send out a call for help. We realized that times were hard, with the Right getting the upper hand, and many small papers folding. A women who might have volunteered

work than coming to production/layout or editing meetings. Staff members make financial and last minute decisions, and take care of VWV office work, bookkeeping, calling volunteers, coaxing writers, and writing some articles. They also commit themselves to filling in the gaps left by volunteers. Volunteers do many of the same things staff do: typesetting & layout, graphics if they can, editing, typing, distribution, article writing, photography, and more. Just about any one can become a volunteer or a staff -- we'll train you! A woman who wants to be a volunteer can start right away by submitting photos or

articles or by coming to production. If she wants to be a staff member, she should volunteer for a while first, to get the feel of things, and then current staff members come to consensus on whether they would like her to join (this keeps out the occasional reactionary or nasty type!). If you only have a few hours to give, please consider doing distribution each month. We especially need women to take papers to the hill towns (Sunderland, Belchertown, Montague, etc.) North Amherst, the Springfield and Holyoke Areas and to Mt. Holyoke, Amherst and Hampshire Colleges, on the first of each month.



Poetry is her Main Weapon Audre Lorde at Amherst

by Becky Thatcher

The international nature of the search for justice was one of the themes of Audre Lorde's poetry reading at Amherst College in November.

Lorde, who has written many books of poetry and prose including *Sister Outsider*, *Zami - A New Spelling of My Name*, and *Chosen Poems*, spoke to a group of about 400 entranced listeners.

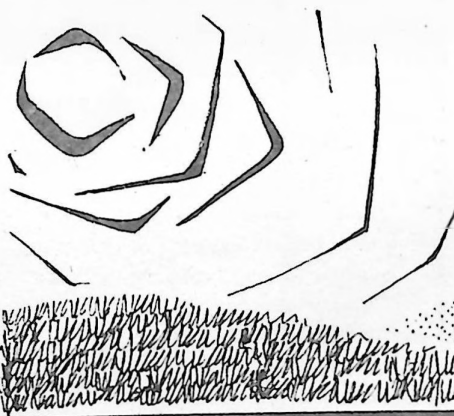
She talked of how she had been travelling to many parts of the world and found women everywhere who were re-naming, re-identifying, and re-claiming themselves and their land. In Australia, she said, black aboriginal women have recently taken over a place that had historically represented women's dreams.

The experience of visiting this place had a profound effect on Lorde. "I have had to learn to recognize that I did not know what it meant to be a citizen of the most powerful country in the world," she said.

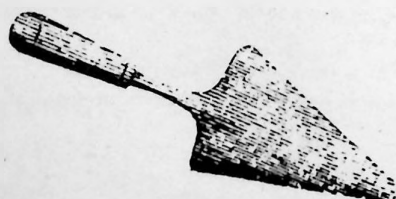
Lorde said she learned alot on her visit to Berlin. There was only one monument to the death of six million Jews. She visited the monument and outside there was an urn containing earth from German concentration camps.

From this experience, she wrote a poem titled, "Earth from German Concentration Camps". She read this beautiful poem to the audience.

She described the subtle and not-so-subtle methods used to marginalize black poets. "There are certain things that tick me off," she said.



For instance, "whenever I hear [the phrase] 'happens to be', I know some dehumanizing term is going to follow." "The poet who happens to be black, the black who happens to be a woman," were two examples that she gave. Lorde said she had felt that marginalization many times, in eyes which started cancelling her out "like an unwelcome guest"; but she has always resisted. **cont'd on p. 12**



Centerfold on Women Farming

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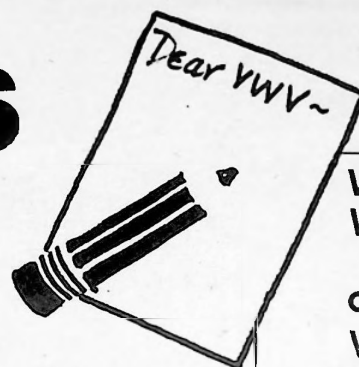
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correction: last
month's lead article
was by Pam Holland

All letters to the editor present the views of the author only. No statement in any letter to the editor represents any official position of the Valley Women's Voice, the Student Government Association, the administration or trustees of UMass, or the State Board of Regents.

LETTERS



Valley Women's
Voice

c/o EWC,
Wilder Hall,
UMass
Amherst, MA

01003

545-2436

About the Valley Women's Voice

The Valley Women's Voice was born in 1979 after feminist women, angered by the UMass student newspaper's refusal to give adequate coverage to women's news, occupied the offices of the *Daily Collegian*.

Since that early spring, the Voice has gone through changes of personnel, location and format. It is now a 16-page monthly with a distribution of 8,000 and a mailing list of 220 subscribers and exchange publications.

With an office at Everywoman's Center on the UMass campus, and status as a Recognized Student Organization, the Valley Women's Voice is a small business staffed by students and community women.

A healthy share of advertisers help keep the paper financially afloat, and supplies, advice and technical assistance are available through the University. Readers, contributors, and volunteers support the paper, which circulates between Amherst, Northampton and Springfield. Outlying towns and regions receive the Voice via the U.S. Mail and willing commuters.

To the Editor:

The writer of your lead article (Nov. '85 issue) did not identify herself, perhaps because she was not "out" yet. If she had, I would have addressed this commentary to her.

Instead, I hope that the sponsoring organizations of the recent conference on the concerns of lesbians and gays (Hampshire College, Oct. 19 and 20) will take note of what I have to say.

I am very sad, heartsick, even, that my lesbian sisters feel I should not be welcomed to a conference that focuses on their lives. Are you all so separatist that you must be as prejudiced toward your heterosexual sisters as too many heterosexuals are towards you?

What about your siblings, your mother, your father, your aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, the heterosexual friends who love you dearly regardless of any choice of different lifestyle?

What if we--any of us poorly educated heterosexual people--wished to become better educated regarding the urgent concerns of the women in our lives who happen to be struggling for recognition and respect as people regardless of sexual orientation?

Can you imagine the heartbreak of a mother seeking admittance to your conference, in company of her lesbian daughter, and being turned away? What should we do, wear a scarlet H on our breasts?

What about the loving adolescent daughters of lesbians, daughters who seem to be heterosexual in their sexual development? One who is perhaps fifteen or sixteen years old, a loving daughter raised by two loving lesbians? Will or would you ban her too?

If you insist on being so insular how can we who love you share your problems, your needs, your celebrations of self-awareness? Does your bitterness against the heterosexual world compel you to want to lock us out in the same way that you have been so cruelly locked out of too many heterosexual minds?

I am associated with an organization of relatives of lesbians and gays formed as a support group to help us help ourselves and the family members we love on an on-going basis. Both homosexual and heterosexual family members and friends attend meetings, sometimes with, sometimes without, the lesbian and gay members.

The communication is wonderful, sympathetic, fervently dedicated to bringing and keeping us all closer together in mutual love and spiritual acceptance.

Please do not shut caring heterosexuals out: we need you and you need us. We can only love you and support you if you let us.

Keeping the faith,

Mother of a Lesbian

P.S. I cannot identify myself precisely, because I must respect my daughter's privacy. But if any friend or relative of lesbians and gays wishes more information about PFLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, I would be happy to share what I know.

Write to Box 462

H. Amherst MA 01059.

There will be no January Issue.
See you Feb. 1st!

The Valley Women's Voice
Needs Your Voice
and Your Help

Please Come to Our Open Meeting.

submissions for Feb. 1st due early Jan. Call
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- A column is 2 & 1/2 inches wide by 1 inch long.

Local News

Gifts for Central America

Umass Student Rights in Danger

A rally is planned at UMass to challenge Student Activities Office Director Frankly D. (Randy) Donant's attempt to usurp student power in budgeting the Student Activities Trust Fund (SATF). Donant's action will most drastically effect the allocation of funds for professional positions, in offices such as Off Campus Housing and Legal Services. Currently, the student government is responsible for the fiscal decisions concerning SATF-funded organizations. Donant seeks to take these powers away from students and invest them completely in the administration. A protest of the administration's actions will take place Thursday, December 5 at 12:30 p.m. outside the student Union. The rally is sponsored by START (Students Advocating Rights Together). Support and attendance is greatly needed! For more information, contact M. Lynne at 546-7044/

A special two-month material aid campaign for Central American refugees and other victims of war has been initiated by two New England peace and justice organizations. "Gifts for Central America," co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Massachusetts Witness for Peace, is inviting Western Mass. residents and organizations to collect educational and medical supplies during the holiday season of November and December. The urgently needed materials will be trucked from Northampton to Cambridge to Philadelphia and shipped to Central American in January. Material and financial contributions will go to aid Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugee camps in Honduras, and to supply a health clinic in Esteli, Nicaragua. Last year, some 15,000 pounds of supplies were collected in a similar effort. "The holiday season has always been a time when Americans give thanks for the bounty which we have and we renew our hope for peace," said Lois Ahrens,

coordinator for the Western Mass. "Gifts for Central American" campaign. The Campaign is a direct humanitarian way for Americans to respond to the needs of refugees and other victims of war, at a time when our government is sending millions of tax dollars to Central American for war, we are inviting people to collect educational and medical supplies for healing and peace in the lives of our neighbors." Schools, civil organizations, religious groups, people participating in holiday office parties and individuals are encouraged to initiate a local project early in the holiday season so that materials can be sent to Cambridge at the end of the year. A holiday-linked project, people can pack a box with school materials such as notebooks, pencils, paints and scissors or with medical supplies such as gauze, ace bandages, toothbrushes and paste, dental floss, aspirin and tylenol for Central American war victims. Information packets for organizers are available from the AFSC office in Northampton. All

supplies are being collected at AFSC, 3 Langworthy Road, Northampton. Tax-deductible contributions to purchase additional supplies and to cover other costs of the campaign may be made payable to "AFSC-Gifts for Central American" and sent to the AFSC Northampton office. For additional information and ways you can get involved, call AFSC at 413-584-8975



Don't Even Talk About Abortion

by Jennifer Kaufman

Family Planning centers are now faced with a serious threat by the Kemp-Hatch proposal, which would deny Federal Title X funds to any clinic which in the course of its activities provides abortion counselling or referrals. The proposed amendment would not only affect family planning centers, but any other such clinic which receives money from the federal government. Provided by family planning centers are pregnancy tests, counselling, information, and referrals to clinics which do perform abortion operations. According to Alwyn Schmidt, Public Affairs/Development Coordinator of Western Mass. Family Planning, Family Planning has always been "prohibited to provide abortions." Kemp and Hatch want to take away not only women's right to abortion, but the right even to information about abortion. This attempt to deprive women of the information they need to make fully informed, conscientious decisions about pregnancy violated the First Amendment of the Constitution in two ways. Firstly, it denied the counselor's guarantee of free speech, and the woman's fundamental right to privacy. The other half of the Kemp-Hatch proposal denies family planning monies to clinics that counsel or refer abortion, even if those activities are carried out with non-Title X funds. Secondly, the government cannot require a recipient of public funds to agree to forgo his or her constitutionally protected rights as a condition of receiving funds. Suzanne M. Lynn, staff counsel to the Reproductive Freedom project of the American Civil Liberties Union,

summed up this violation by stating, "The government, having decided to fund speech in the family-planning area, cannot discriminate between the expression of ideas it likes and those it doesn't like, especially when the disfavored ideas concern the exercise of constitutionally protected rights." Schmidt states that the situation "raises a real question about the level of commitment to freedom of speech and the right to know." Family Planning has been operating on temporary federal funding since October 1, the beginning of the federal fiscal year, but this continuing resolution expires on November 15. One reason for this situation is that the legislation to reauthorize the program for the new fiscal year has not yet been approved by Congress. Senator Orrin Hatch has been the one blocking this bill for a vote by the full Senate by not bringing this legislation before the committee ne chairs. In addition, appropriation bills for this fiscal year have been dropped, because legislation is pending to provide federal funding for family planning on a permanent basis. Because of delayed congressional authorization and appropriations for legislation, there is currently a temporary spending plan for family planning nationwide, but remember, this continuing resolution will cease on November 15. (see note at end of article eds.) when the second continuing resolution is brought to Congress, New Right members such as Rep. Jack Kemp and Senator Orrin Hatch will try to tack on their amendments, and they will have the chance to do so before the full house and senate. It is imperative that

cont'd on p. 11

Woman's Recovery Blocked by Family

Karen Thompson, a St. Cloud University (Minnesota) faculty member, and Sharon Kowalski entered into a lesbian relationship six years ago. They bought a house together and took out life insurance on each other. Only their close friends knew about their relationship. Two years ago, Sharon, then 28, was critically injured in an automobile accident involving a drunk driver and suffered a serious brain stem injury. At first, Sharon was a patient at the St. Cloud hospital for about eight months, during which time Karen visited her for many hours a day to help with her care and recovery. When Sharon's parents began questioning and limiting her visiting hours, a psychologist suggested that Karen "come out" to the parents so they understood her intense concern. The parents completely rejected their daughter's lesbianism and accused Karen of being "sick" and "crazy" and even of sexually abusing their daughter. Backed into a corner, Karen felt she had no other option out to file for guardianship. The parents counterfiled for guardianship which they were awarded by the court with the provision that Karen be granted "equal access" to visitation and medical staff consultation. Since that time, even though Sharon has been moved further and further from St. Cloud, Karen has been integrally involved in Sharon's recovery, sometimes driving as much as six to seven hours in a day to be with her for a few hours. While Sharon rarely responds to others, she is very responsive to Karen. With Karen's help, Sharon began learning to eat, to talk, to write, and to laugh. Court affidavits filed by nurses, doctors, and therapists have said that Karen is the key to Sharon's recovery. As increasing restrictions were placed on Karen's visitation and care giving, Sharon's recovery process slowed, and in some areas regressed. However, Sharon has indicated to several agency representatives that she and Karen are gay and that she wishes to see Karen! At this time Karen Thompson has been unable to visit Sharon for over three months except for a period or a few days two months ago. The Minnesota Office of Health Facilities Complaints recently substantiated that the Leisure Hills nursing home is in violation of the Patient's Bill of Rights by denying Sharon visitation by her lesbian partner. The CHFC investigator talked directly with Sharon who clearly indicated her wish that Karen be able to visit her. The nursing home was given five days

cont'd on p. 11



Newsbriefs

Hassle-free Zones

WRAGE, a D.C.-based feminist group, proposed a new concept in combatting violence against women during the recent Anti-Rape week in Washington: hassle-free zones.

Hassle-free zones, which are similar in concept to nuclear free zones, would establish areas where women would be free from verbal sexual harassment on the streets of D.C. The idea was a popular one with women involved in anti-violence activities during Anti-Rape week.

Monique Fordham of WRAGE (which stands for women's rage), was the originator of the idea, and spoke about the issue during a rally at the D.C. Take Back the Night march. The idea of a harassment-free zone grew out of Fordham's wish to be able to walk through Dupont Circle on any day without having at least one sexual comment made as she passed by. The idea, she said, was "utopian"---"a public place where a woman could go without being sexually scrutinized...where people could relax and enjoy themselves without the elements of fear and embarrassment that sexual harassment creates."

Fordham pointed out that if women accept sexual harassment on the street as an inevitability, its subtler forms in the workplace and society cannot be changed. While model hassle-free zones could be legislated, the concept behind the zones cannot. "It must be brought into the collective consciousness of our society by women themselves --in the ways that they live their daily lives and respond to sexual abuse," Fordham said. She emphasized that sexual harassment is not flattery, and that women's desire for freedom from objectification and harassment is not a radical concept.

--from Off Our Backs (oob)

Suffrage Setback

KUWAIT--Kuwaiti women's efforts to win the vote have received a setback. The interpretation committee of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs has declared that "the nature of the electoral process befits men, who are endowed with ability and expertise: it is not permissible that women nominate other women or men."

The national assembly is now supposed to be considering a bill that would grant suffrage. Feminists say the decision of the assembly's legal affairs committee to ask for a ruling from a ministry that is a bastion of conservatism was a sign of bad faith.

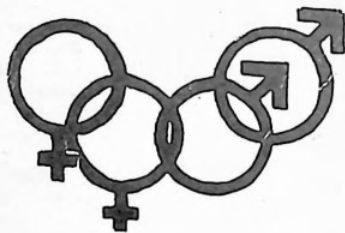
"If the assemblymen were really committed to giving women the vote," Dr. Rasha al-Sabah of Kuwait University, "they would have foreseen this and taken steps to avoid it."

Some fundamentalists support suffrage for women. Kuwait's largest Sunni Muslim fundamentalist group, the Social Reform Society, backs extending the vote to women. "Islam says a woman should cover her hair and her arms, not her mind," said the editor of the group's magazine. The group has a strong motive for wanting women to vote: its leaders believe most women will vote for them. More than 50 percent of Kuwait University's students are women, and they vote overwhelmingly for Sunni fundamentalists in student elections.

Kuwait is the only country in the Arab world with an elected legislature that does not allow women to vote. Women have been trying to get the vote since 1971. In 1980, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaikh Saad al-Abdullah el-Salem al-Sabah said it was time to consider votes for women, but the assembly has not approved suffrage yet.

--info from the Guardian (Britain) and Middle East

-oob



Gay Rights Wronged

Throughout the country, activists persist in their efforts to extend civil rights protections to gays and lesbians. Unfortunately, few of the legislative bodies considering anti-discrimination measures have similar convictions.

massachusetts

On September 23, after hours of stormy debate, the Massachusetts House of Representatives defeated a lesbian/gay rights bill which would have extended civil rights protections in jobs and housing to persons regardless of sexual orientation.

In 1983, the bill passed the House by four votes, but was killed in the Senate on a technicality. Opponents this year were, as in '83, the Roman Catholic Church and Christian Scientists. Adding fuel to their fire were traditional opposition groups arguing that passage would increase spread of AIDS and "further" break down the family and moral fibre of

the country.

This defeat follows the announcement by Governor Dukakis last spring of his new policy prohibiting lesbians and gay men from foster parenting. The Dukakis administration claims that such parents are a harmful influence on children.

On the brighter side, Harvard University announced this past summer that it has formally adopted a policy that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual preference. This policy follows a human rights ordinance by the City of Cambridge which protects gays against discrimination in employment.

oklahoma

Governor George Nigh recently signed into law two bills which allow discriminatory action against gays and lesbians in Oklahoma.

The first is a revision of an Oklahoma statute which calls for the dismissal of teachers who bring

Pro-choice

Responding to the recent attempt by the Reagan Administration to have the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade and make abortion illegal, 81 members of Congress filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to retain abortion rights. The brief was filed with the Court on August 30. The pro-abortion rights brief was written by Professor Laurence Tribe of Harvard University, a leading civil rights attorney. At the time the government's brief was filed, 82 anti-abortion representatives and Senators filed an amicus brief supporting the reversal of Roe v. Wade.

Even in anti-abortion circles, a total reversal of Roe v. Wade seems unlikely. In the National Right-to-Life News, spokesmen for the National Right-to-Life Committee were quoted as saying that it is unlikely that the landmark 1972 decision would be reversed, since the court is unchanged since its June 1983 reaffirmation of Roe, by a vote of 6 to 3.

Other amicus briefs filed in support of Roe v. Wade were coordinated by the National Abortion Rights Action League (and signed by 17 other women's groups), the National Organization for Women (and signed by 7 other groups), the National Abortion Federation, Planned Parenthood, The American Civil Liberties Union, and others.

-oob

Reagan Eulogizes Fetuses

A three-year legal dispute over how to dispose of 16,433 aborted fetuses found in a steel bin in Los Angeles ended as the fetuses were given a non-religious burial, with a eulogy written by President Reagan. Anti-abortionists gathered to pray before the fetuses, in six coffin-like boxes, were buried in three unmarked graves. The battle over whether the fetuses could be turned over to a religious organization had gone to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld lower-court decisions that the county could either bury or cremate the fetuses but could not arrange or participate in any religious services. (*Boston Globe*)

--from Sojourner



Rape Revolt

PARIS--Following a wave of rapes in public in recent weeks, 1500 women demonstrated in Paris September 17 to protest against public apathy in the face of violence against women.

-- Fabienne, aged 17, was raped in a suburban train near Paris. A wagon full of witnesses: none of them did anything to stop the crime...

-- Isabelle, aged 18, was raped in a subway station in the middle of Paris. Two wagons full of witnesses: none of them did anything to stop the crime...

-- Marie Claude, aged 19, was raped in a street in the middle of Paris. A whole street full of witnesses: none of them did anything to stop the crime... Marie Claude, with a severely fractured arm and a swollen face, black and blue, had to make her way alone to the nearest hospital while witnesses merely looked on...

The demonstration was initially planned to consist of a gathering of women which would block traffic at rush hour on the street where the last public rape occurred. In this way, passers-by would be forced to stop, to face what had happened there, to take violence against women seriously. But when more women turned up than expected, the gathering became a march, took off through the streets of Paris, with the women chanting anti-rape slogans, singing, blocking traffic all the way, and handing out leaflets explaining why this action was necessary.

This was the second recent feminist action in Paris against rape. The first one took place about two weeks earlier, following the rape of a young woman in the busiest subway station in Paris. The demonstrators triggered alarm systems. While a voice over the loudspeaker told the confused passengers to quickly get out of the train, the women distributed leaflets explaining that this was an action to protest public indifference during a rape which had taken place on the spot one week before. After having read the leaflet, most passengers seemed sympathetic to the action. The women managed to leave without getting arrested.

The struggle continues...

by paola bacchetta

-oob



homosexuality to the attention of students. The new law specifies that teachers or school employees can be dismissed if they have "engaged in criminal sexual activity or sexual conduct that has impeded the effectiveness of (their) performance of school duties."

The second law is a new fair housing act that specifically identifies homosexuals as a group that is not protected by the anti-discriminatory provisions of the law.

rhode island

On September 5, the Providence City Council deleted from an anti-discrimination ordinance the category of sexual orientation.

The Council gave unanimous approval to the legislation including sexual orientation on August 1--but they must vote twice on an ordinance before it becomes law.

Due to local media and Providence Bishop Louis E. Gelineau, who ob-

jected to sexual orientation protections and due to public hearings where anti-gay sentiment was aired freely, the Council members went through a total turnaround.

The ordinance guarantees legal protection based on categories of sex, race, and marital status.

delaware

On August 15, the Wilmington City Council defeated a bill which would have outlawed discrimination on the basis of age, disability, and sexual orientation in housing, public accommodations, and procurement of city contracts.

Again, a public debate strongly influenced the decision. The debate, focusing exclusively on the sexual orientation part of the bill, brought up frequent charges that gays are to blame for AIDS, herpes, and hepatitis.

by karen mudd, with info from Gay Community News and the Washington Blade

-oob

Women and A.I.D.S.

by Cindy Patton

In 1980, a new disease-Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), soon to be the most widely known disease of the twentieth century-was recognized among a small group of urban gay men. The early association of this disease with gay men skewed public perception, marking AIDS as a "gay disease" and negatively affecting research and public policy priorities. Although about seventy percent of those affected in the U.S. are gay or bisexual men, there are significant other risk groups. Among these groups are women.

Roughly seven percent of the 13,000 U.S. cases (and a slightly lower percentage of the 350 Massachusetts cases) and about half of the non-U.S. cases are women. Women are at risk for AIDS in several ways, making it difficult to approach the special needs of women as a "community."

There has been little organized effort to define and organize around the needs of women with AIDS, in part because these women are hidden in the categories "intravenous (IV) drug user" and "other" or "non-characteristic." West Coast women started a Women and AIDS Network, which for a time published educational material, but they were hampered by the lack of institutional support and the unwillingness of the feminist activist community to perceive AIDS as an important health and political issue. COYOTE, the San Francisco-based sex workers union, has been active in educating women in the sex industry, and recently formulated policy statements on forced testing and safe sex. The most recent issue of *Our Bodies, Our Selves* contains a brief section on AIDS. Women have met in groups at nearly every AIDS conference to discuss the problems of women with AIDS, but much of our time has gone into supporting ourselves as we work in predominantly gay male organizations on a disease still discounted as a disease of perversion. Many of the U.S. women's papers have run an article on AIDS, often about the issues of

women who have had problems with the medical or judicial systems. But despite the occasional articles hinting at the political and medical problems arising in the AIDS crisis, feminists have not mounted an organized effort to cope with the AIDS epidemic or its political aftermath. There are simple and complex reasons why feminists around the country have avoided the issue of AIDS, including burnout from other work, persistent homophobia, sex-negative attitudes, and fear of confronting such an unprecedented health problem.

Unfortunately, as most AIDS organizers have discovered, individuals and communities don't respond to the tragedy and urgency of AIDS-related illness and panic until someone they know gets AIDS. But because most of the women with AIDS are scattered throughout communities not structurally connected with the primarily white, middle-class feminist movement--recent Caribbean immigrants, prostitutes, IV drug users, urban poor, and isolated suburbanites--the majority of active feminists have not met a woman with AIDS.

AIDS is a terrifying disease, especially if you have watched someone waste away until death, or listened to medical personnel state their refusal to care for patients, or wondered whether you might have been exposed. The fear of AIDS circles closer to home until we do something to stop the panic and slow the spread of the disease--something personal and something programmatic.

Women who have not been exposed to the virus have a great deal of work to do in order to support women who have, and to support gay men. Gay men, whatever our political differences, are our allies. Feminists who continue to deny the similarity of women's and gay men's concerns at this historical moment should read the Eagle Forum pamphlet "ERA-AIDS" to

cont'd on p. 10

Information on A.I.D.S.

by Cindy Patton

NATURE AND EFFECTS OF AIDS

After nearly five years of research, AIDS has been extensively described but not yet halted. The virus widely believed to be the primary agent, HTLV-III, is a special, recently discovered "retrovirus" that integrates itself into the DNA of the host cell so that all cells reproduced from the host bear the viral mutation. It is not known whether that integration alone is sufficient to cause the total immune system collapse seen in AIDS, or whether co-factors--genetic makeup, other viruses, or environmental events--are necessary. The immune system breakdown leaves the body vulnerable to infections (especially PCP, or Pneumocystic Carinii Pneumonia,) and cancers (especially KS, or Kaposi's Sarcoma) which normally do not affect healthy people. Although there is not yet a cure for the immune deficiency itself, treatments for the infections and cancer are available.

Studies show that 500,000 to one million people in the U.S. have been exposed to the virus, with about five to ten percent actually getting full-blown AIDS. But many get a debilitating syndrome generally called AIDS-related Complex, or ARC. Some neurological dysfunctions, both subtle and dramatic, have recently been identified in AIDS and ARC patients, and some doctors believe that these complications may occur in otherwise asymptomatic people exposed to the virus in later life. Unless a treatment or combination of treatments is discovered that kills the virus and inhibits the integrated form of its action, exposure is for life.

SYMPTOMS OF AIDS

Most of the symptoms of AIDS are similar to those associated with colds, bronchitis, and the stomach flu. However, if these symptoms appear, medical attention should be sought. Symptoms include: unexplainable increasing and persistent fatigue; persistent fever, chills, and night sweats not accompanied by a known illness and lasting longer than

several weeks; unexpected weight loss of over ten pounds in less than two months; swollen glands (lymph nodes) unexplained by other illness and lasting longer than two weeks; creamy white patches on the tongue or mouth; persistent diarrhea; persistent, frequent dry cough (not from smoking or common respiratory infection), or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; pink or purple flat or raised blotches that don't go away and do not pale when pressed (these lesions are not common in women with AIDS).

WOMEN AND AIDS

As of June 1984, 340 women in the U.S. had AIDS. (That number has doubled in the last year.) Slightly over half are IV drug users, and over one-third are categorized as "other," including women who have had sexual contact with men in risk groups and women who have received transfusions. Of the total, fifty percent are Black, twenty-four percent are white, twenty-three percent are Hispanic, and three percent are unknown or other. The vast majority are between twenty and forty years old. Most of the women have Pneumocystic Pneumonia or other opportunistic infections, with only a handful having Kaposi's Sarcoma. Of the total, over half of the women are in New York City or Newark, less than ten percent are in Miami, and the rest are scattered across the country. Overall, half of the women diagnosed with AIDS have died.

Women who use IV drugs are at risk for AIDS (and other diseases) if they share needles. Over fifty percent of the women who have contracted AIDS have been IV drug users, and over half of these women have already died. Since people may transmit AIDS without showing symptoms, sharing needles with someone who appears healthy is not a safeguard.

Over twelve percent of the women who have AIDS probably acquired it from sexual contact with a man who had been exposed to it. Apparently, AIDS may be transmitted in semen

cont'd on p. 10

Where is El Salvador?

by Ruth Killough

Dear VWV:

Ruth Killough is working at an orphanage in El Salvador. She is a former Bates College student and mental health workers, and was an intern at the Everywoman's Center in domestic violence before she left for El Salvador. She is known and loved by many in the area.

I have been corresponding with her directly, but the enclosed are letters her sister-in-law (Marl) wanted me to pass along to you all.

Peace--and keep up the great work!
Ila O'Brien

Dear Friends,

The intent of this letter is one of a call-plead- a wish that you'll share this information with others--and if possible, react to this letter in some creative manner. It seems to me and other volunteers and Salvadoreans that the tension, oppression, and violence has increased here and will continue to do so. When Duarte's daughter was kidnapped, Salvadoreans friends said the oppression would increase--it has, but it seems to be only a symptom of this prevailing violence, though a major symptom as of recently. Economically speaking, things are worsening for the colon (Salvadorean dollar) and thus the people.

In terms of soldier and government activity, I can only go on the sights surrounding me, as nothing gets reported. I've seen more tinted glass Cherokee jeeps without license plates (the "former" death squad vehicle) out, more soldiers around all part of town and even at the airport. More trucks of soldiers have passed by to the camps and many blackened-faced soldiers returning from war. I've heard more and know more acquaintances of friends who'd been drafted by the soldiers. Two friends staying in a hotel in town awoke to an empty dining room one morning--the waiters had been drafted that morning.

Another friend told us he popped into a disco one night, seeing several soldiers standing around flashing money and brass in order to entice recruits. They enticed a few but not enough to fulfil their quota, so they came back around 3 a.m. and picked up any other males still around.

There have been several child kidnappings recently. These aren't unheard of here, as they could be used for labor, or in an army and are suspected of guerrilla connections as well as adults are, but it seems recently that child kidnappings are occurring more. Possibly I'm just understanding Spanish better, but others have agreed with me. Last week, two children were kidnapped in the San Jacinto Mercado where I live. San Jacinto is usually untouched by these types of happenings as it's not very wealthy. A teacher at my school told me how last week as she was walking through the city center, she saw a child being grabbed from his mother's arms, the man pulling and dragging the kid away, while the kid was screaming and crying and his mother collapsing on the ground out of utter loss and helplessness (these were her words). I thought how, in a crowded city, someone could have reacted to this and helped the mother, but if the man was armed, people feared him because he was connected to the army. People probably felt as helpless as the mother.

This morning, another teacher arrived at school saying, "Yesterday a ten-year-old boy was kidnapped near my home--ten years old! A man pulled up in a car with tinted windows and snatched the boy. He was dressed in civilian clothes, but he was a soldier." Panic and fear was about her as I could imagine she was thinking of her two children and what will happen when they're by themselves (she has no husband or other family members living with her.) However, the story most piercing to my heart happened last Tuesday. While we were in the combined school/church around five p.m., we heard this screaming/shouting, this sobbing, not like when a child is disappointed or frustrated but more like blood-curdling screams. The director

and I ran to the wall surrounding the church and looked over it, looking down on this teenage girl being dragged away by four soldiers. She screamed, "Mama, Mama, where are you? Help me! Don't let them take me!" Her cries sent my whole body trembling--this young girl and why? What could she do or have done? What could I do? Then the director pulled me down as I realized we could be in trouble for knowing too much--maybe I couldn't but I forgot about my gringo-ness and felt fear of the army and their power/oppression. And this girl who, the director told me is fourteen years old and from the neighborhood, who knows what will happen to her?

In terms of FMLN activity, their strength (but not necessarily in numbers) and violence has increased. The paros (strikes: the guerrillas close off the road to traffic, threatening to search, harm, empty or bomb your car) which once occurred only in the East, have recently covered the Eastern, Northern and Western areas. This is a sig of their increasing strength, and as a political scientist has pointed out down here, since the FMLN really has nowhere to hide, they must have some sort of support from the folks in the campo in order for them to be there. There have been two paros in the past two weeks.

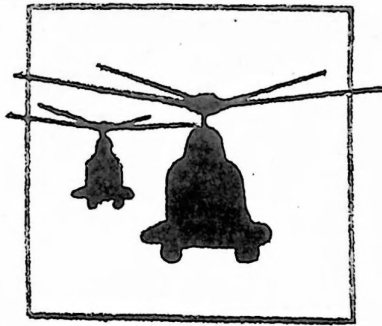
Some Central American folks have claimed that the current atmosphere reflects the mood in Cuba in the year before the revolution, and the mood in Nicaragua the year before the Sandinistas came to rule. Maybe they're jumping the gun a little, but tension and violence is mounting.

If you can react and act, please do. People's lives, families, friends are being lost. Skip the politics of the government and the FMLN and look to the people being robbed of money and life. They have no say, only communities of support, which the government is suspicious of--they're suspicious of their strength. Don't send AID as it only goes to the government; money goes only into weapons, the campesinos don't see it. If the FMLN

got money, they probably use it for weapons to defend themselves. Please support the sanctuary movement or work to change our government's opinion--we need to stop sending dollars and military advisors down here. The two forces down here can settle the war without influence by the U.S. Why should we be involved in creating deaths? I believe that the only way we can help is by pulling out. Please think about this. These really are our brothers and sisters in our family. You just haven't met them yet. They haven't been allowed to join the family reunion.

Love to all of you,
Ruth

NOTE: There are ways to send aid to people in the guerrilla-controlled areas without it going to weaponry. CASA at UMass (408 Student Union) has information on Material Aid campaigns to help send school and medical supplies to the El Salvadorean countryside. (BH)



Poetry

by Orliot K. Heretic

distasteful drive

we led a hard life
ate many potatoes
wore wire rimmed glasses
we had stepped on so they were bent slightly
so the world was always slightly
crooked
so it looked just like somewhere else
dogs played in the cobbled streets
crows barked
what kind of gloomy light was this
that played shadows on the sides of graffiti-covered
buildings?
We stumbled on, over friendly cats
eager to rub their fur on our legs
make us sneeze
and the dawn finally came up
we realized
we're in another town,
a different year
with other glasses.

dedicated to Wilde P. Ocean,
with affection

On Sexuality (Yours): a contemporary Haiku

figures move in the darkness
goats run across the road,
unannounced.
you drop a glass,
it shatters.

In Living Color

by Monika Giacoppe

For six years now, the New World Theater Ensemble has been enriching the five college community through their presentations of plays representing the cultures of the African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American peoples. In this admirable tradition, their latest production, "In Living Color", was no disappointment.

"In Living Color" is actually a collection of three plays by and about Asian, Hispanic, and Afro-American women. The first play, "Pigeons", by Genny Lim, takes place in New York City, where an elderly Chinese woman meets a young Chinese-American woman. Neither has any family left in the world, but the older woman has adopted the pigeons in the park as her own family. She would like the younger woman to help her take care of them - since she sees herself getting old and unable to continue much longer. She has a hard time convincing the younger woman, who has a hard time imagining herself playing servant to a bunch of dirty pigeons. Eventually, however, the younger woman opens up and learns not only to communicate, but also to show affection, something that appears to be new for her. The play itself moved a bit slowly, but was still quite enjoyable due to Ming-Chien's touching portrayal of a very spirited older woman, and Alyson Hui's convincing characterization of a selfish and solitary young woman.

Within an already interesting plot, this adds an intriguing effect. The play shows quite aptly the ambiguous position of Puerto Ricans in the United States - American enough not to have their own country, but not enough to receive the benefits of American citizenship.

"Marine Tiger", the second play, was absolutely outstanding in all respects. Written by Estrella Artau, the play deals with a Puerto Rican woman applying for welfare. Faced with three automated welfare clerks, all of whom dress and talk exactly alike, her only support is the translator, Minerva, played to perfection by Celina Leite Cavalcanti. Since a large portion of the dialogue takes place in Spanish, it puts those members of the audience who do not understand Spanish in exactly the same position as Esther, the applicant. They must wait until someone is kind enough to translate for them in order to know what's going on.



"Loner", by Joan California Cooper, was the final selection of the evening. Although it demonstrated the position of Afro-American women, it didn't seem to have the same emphasis on women characters as did the first two. "Cool", played by Brian Tinker, is the central character of the play. He is a gigolo who is convinced that his mere presence on earth is the cause of every living woman's deepest happiness. He is completely crushed when he finds that Emma, the woman he had always planned to marry "once he was ready" has just married another man, and that this other man - not he - is the father of Emma's two sons. The play seemed to lean heavily on "Cool"'s monologues about women (which were appropriately enraging), but it would have been nice to hear a bit more from Emma, to better understand her change of heart. Still, the play moved quickly, and provided the audience with a rare chance to view the position of women in some Black communities - a reality not often visible here in the five college community.

Overall, it was an excellent evening of entertainment by the New World Theater Ensemble, and those of us who are fortunate enough to live here where we have the opportunity to view their productions ought to be thankful for all the hard work and organization on the part of everyone involved, in order to make New World Theater possible.

New Books at the Everywoman's Center Library

Alternatives: New Developments in the War on Breast Cancer. Rose Kushner. Warner Books. 1985. \$4.95

What you can learn about breast cancer can save your life, your health, and your breasts. In many cases, there are alternative therapies to mastectomy and important choices you can make in your treatment. Written by the nation's leading lay expert on the disease, a breast cancer patient herself, a woman who continually challenges ineffective and unnecessary medical procedures and wins, Alternatives provides the most up-to-date facts, controversies, and findings - and answers all your questions on the diagnosis and treatment of this frightening disease.

--reprinted from the cover

A Studio of One's Own, by Ann Stokes, Dolores Klaich, editor. Naiad Press. Tallahassee, FL. 1978. \$7.95

A Studio of One's Own is a journal including photographs and poetry about the building of a women's studio built by and for lesbians in New Hampshire. The vision is to build a studio and retreat for lesbian artists who "need rejuvenating". The book follows the building of the studio from the ground up by a handful of women.

Amateur City. Katherine V. Forrest. Naiad Press. Tallahassee, FL. 1985. \$7.95.

Ellen O'Neil has antagonized her lover by taking a job in a Los Angeles high-rise office building - only to find herself sole witness to events surrounding a baffling murder. LAPD Detective Karen Delafield, tough and demanding leader of the homicide investigation team, soon discovers strong motives for the killing of Fergus Parker in an office united in its hatred of the murdered man. And with her own personal life in crisis, she finds her path increasingly intersecting that of Ellen O'Neil.

--reprinted from the cover

A Hot-Eyed Moderate
Jane Rule, Naiad Press, Tallahassee, FL. 1985
\$7.95

How does sexuality evolve among lesbians and gay men? What is the underlying nature of homosexual attitudes toward aging? Is censorship ever appropriate? Homosexuals telling their parents - when and how?

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--reprinted from the cover

The Feminist Forecast:

Astrological Tidal Changes for Women of the Valley Region



by Elizabeth Gordon

December is a month of darkness and revolution. The longest night of the year occurs on the Winter Solstice, the 21st. It is this same astrological event that brings the revolution, or cyclical turning to December. With the end of the cycle of decreasing light, comes the beginning of the cycle of increasing light; endings and beginnings, one thing leading to another, the possibility of starting over, of beginning again, of rebirthing ourselves. This is the real gift of our Hanukkah and Christmas seasons, a gift we can warmly present to ourselves and those we love: another chance to come out of the darkness into the light, warm light of love. The month is dominated by three very strong and somewhat contrasting influences: expansion, contraction and unpredictability. Properly balanced, these conditions are ideal for getting down to knowing what we want, and for learning how to deal with whatever it is that is preventing us from having what we want. In keeping more with the festive atmosphere of joy and celebration, the month couldn't be better. The spirit of socializing is very strong and pleasant, with a massing of planets in the house of fun, amusement and entertainment. We are guaranteed pleasure, romance, good times with close friends along with the opportunity to rejuvenate our inner lives, a practice all too often lost and forgotten amidst the excitement, spending, and rushing around that now totally dominates the season. Devoting a certain amount of emotional energy to the spirituality of our inner lives doesn't have to be a gloomy exercise, but rather can enhance our daily, more practical activities. Remembering the meaning behind these holidays can bring a feeling of fulfillment and joy, preventing us from being lost in the commercial swamp that bombards us from all sides. So enjoy...eat, drink (but not too much), and be merry, oops! I mean, be merry, for tomorrow you have the chance to begin again. Blessings to you from The Feminist Forecast, and may your New Year promise happiness and the fulfillment of your sweetest dreams.

1st Week December 1-8

The serious tone of the planet Saturn influences our thoughts and feelings all week, the early days being more upbeat thanks to a Leo Moon. The weekend may present you with a wonderfully positive and perhaps lucky opportunity to expand the limits in your life. Here we have an example of the idea of balancing the two contrasting influences mentioned in the introduction: expansion and contraction. Saturn will insure conservatism as you push out to new areas. Saturday evening welcomes the light of the first candle of Hanukkah, reminding us of the need to bear witness to what it is we have faith in. This evening is somewhat unpredictable as Mercury returns to its forward motion at 6:22 am Sunday morning. This change often brings an unexpected upset in plans, so allow extra time, especially for travelling on December roads.

2nd Week December 9-15

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday carry the spirit of unpredictability right through to the New Moon on Wednesday, the 11th. The trend is definitely one of surprises and other, perhaps not so pleasant, unexpected events. This influence will remain with us for the rest of the month but could be most strongly felt by some this week. Again, the watchword

is expect the unexpected. Plans take surprising turns, we meet unusual and very interesting people. This New Moon, occurring at 7:45pm Wednesday, delightfully sets the festive tone for this month of parties and celebrations. We are destined to have fun, even if it is in spite of ourselves. The social and romantic stages are set with warm, humorous friends with whom we have much fun and perhaps something more. Relationships begin in the midst of the holiday activity, only to deepen later. This weekend is one of the best times of the month, so make plans to play, keeping in mind the presence of the influence of caution. Needless to say, this caution ought to be especially present around the use of alcohol, so that your use remains use and doesn't slip into abuse. Then the holidays won't be fun any more. You might not even be able to remember that handsome woman who talked to you last night, and wouldn't that be sad as she seemed to be attracted to you. Alcohol abuse has never made anything more fun, it only seems that way.

3rd Week December 16-22

The sobering influence of Saturn is more and more perceived as a gift sent by the Goddess to protect us throughout this month. We feel it

cont'd on p. 13

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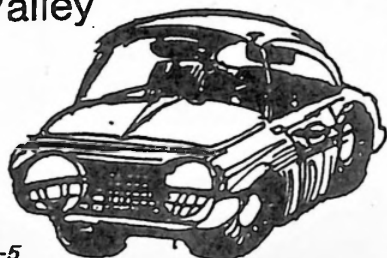
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Growing for



Liz Henderson looking out over the 3 acres where mixed vegetables grow.

Organic gardening is more political than meets the eye. Through the three interviews I conducted, I realized that politics is the driving force behind these three women who strive to be closer to the earth, at the same time sharing their bounty with others.

Maplewood Farm is an organic farm that produces vegetables, herbs and flowers. Two managers and many others operate this farm.

Carlen Adams-Rigrod was one of two farm managers during this past year's growing season.

She graduated from UMass with a plant and soil science degree two years ago. She had developed a smaller farm in the past and found it a challenge to cultivate Maplewood's five acres of land.

I spoke with Carlen as she gathered carrots. These are one of the last vegetables to be harvested, as are kale and spinach.

Carlen enjoys working in the fields, weeding and harvesting. Weeding is a major part of an organic farm, due to the non-use of herbicides. Other tasks include bringing produce to two farmers' markets, organizing the harvest, and general machine maintenance.

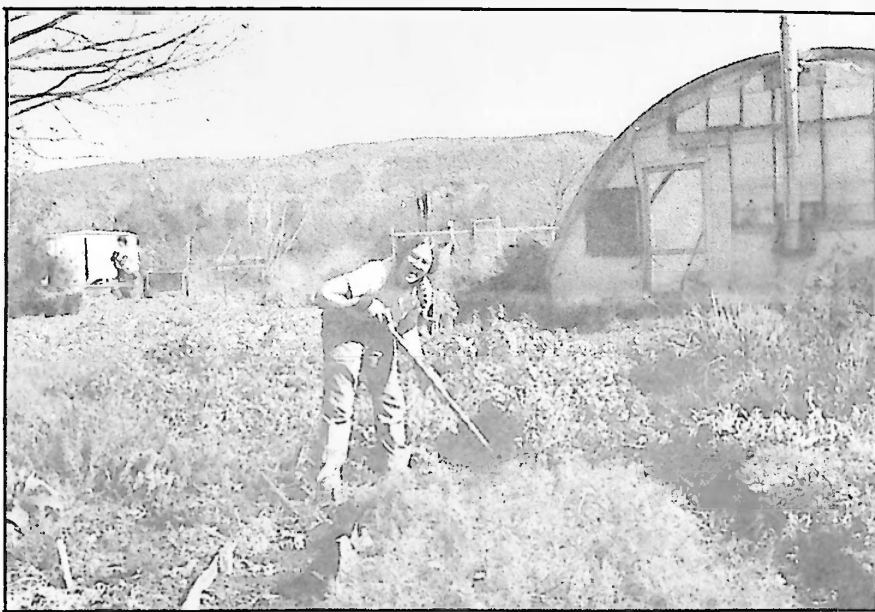
Carlen found it different from living in a community and working at her own pace. Finding time to spend with friends, hiking or canoeing become increasingly difficult as the growing season moves into fall. One must work from dawn to dusk, seven days a week for the greater part of the summer.

She enjoyed getting to know the fields of Maplewood this season. There were no rocks to be found, due to the long history of farming in the fields.

Carlen believes that women have a harder time getting into farming. Besides a large initial capital outlay for land and equipment, women farmers are generally at a disadvantage because they don't know mechanics or carpentry; learning on the job is a must.

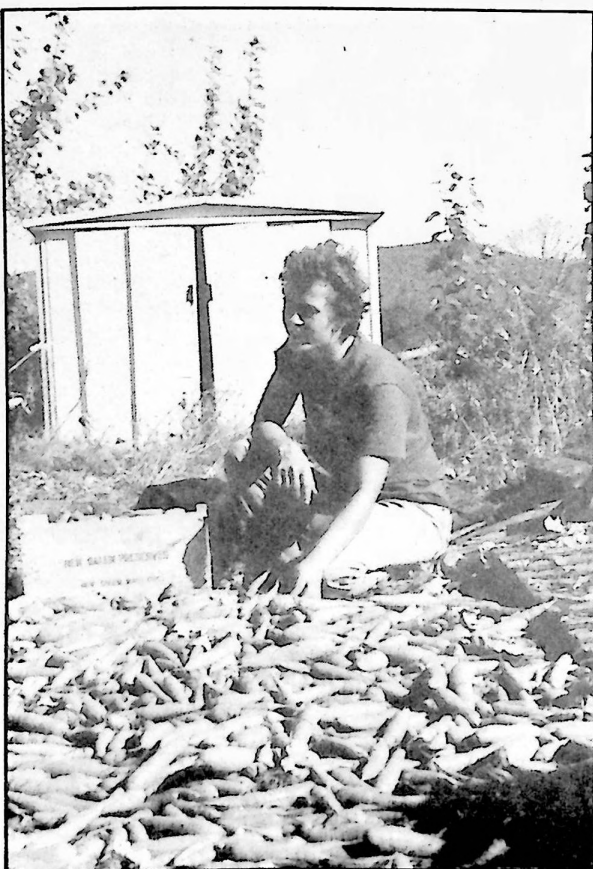
Because Maplewood already had the machinery, maintenance of the machinery is a constant challenge.

Carlen sees numerous reasons for continued use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers on traditional farms. Many farmers feel there is no other way. They can't afford to hire the labor to weed or don't know how to garden organically, so they continue with the methods they know best.



Erin White working in the herb garden at Maplewood Farm.

Carlen Adams-Rigrod packing carrots at Maplewood Farm.



photos &
article
by Cheryl
Ottley



A beautiful variety of leaf lettuce in the greenhouse.

Change

She summarizes, "Agricultural lands in the U.S. are the biggest chemical dump; herbicides are poisons, and this is not a cyclical approach to growing."

She feels this is why organic farming is so necessary: it is a way to educate the community about these methods.

Carlen is excited about the renovations that will be occurring at Maplewood in the next few years. The development of a conference center will be key to teaching others about organic farming.

People will be able to apprentice at Maplewood, while others may come to experiment with workable techniques for growing. The future holds much promise for organically grown vegetables and herbs in this region.

Liz Henderson

Driving up to Gill, Mass. on the morning of the first snow was a real treat. Once at Unadilla Farm, I was greeted by a woman with deep brown eyes, a great smile, and an intent manner.

She showed me around the eight-sided barn, as I helped her load the car with potatoes and carrots that were to be taken to the National

Organic Farmers Association meeting. Then we walked to the greenhouse to collect a few varieties of lettuce for a salad.

Liz Henderson was a professor of Russian Literature and Languages at Boston University where she also worked at unionizing clerical workers.

She knew it would be difficult to maintain a teaching position because she was so outspoken in her politics, and she felt a career in academia would be counter-productive, that a life consistent with her ideals was most important.

"If one is concerned about ecology, and believes that Americans should live more lightly on the land, then why not start with oneself?" she said.

The twenty-acre farm has been operating for five years. Their approach is to do things in the least capital-intensive way possible. In producing their own food and housing, their greatest expenses are for insurance and taxes.

The farm consists of 16 acres of pasture and hay, 3 acres mixed vegetables, half an acre of asparagus and a half-acre of fruit trees.

They also have roughly forty acres of woods and brush plus two beaver ponds.

Cont'd. on p. 14

Liz Henderson collects lettuce for a salad, as we discuss how politics and farming are related.



Julie Chickering with radishes, at Toby Farm.

To Be of Use

The people I love the best
jump into work first without
dallying in the shadows

and swim off with sure strokes
almost out of sight.

They seem to become natives of
that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves,
like an ox to a heavy cart, who pull
like water buffalo, with massive
patience
who, strain in the mud and muck
to things forward, who do what
has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who
submerge in the task, who go into the
fields to harvest and work in a row
and pass the bags along,
who stand in the line and haul
in their places, who are not parlor
generals and field deserters but
move in a common rhythm,
when the food must be in or the
fire be out.

--Marge Piercy



Here rows of leeks are being produced.



Farm stand at Toby Farm in Dennis, Ma.

Voices

The Already Dead

dedicated to Gina Sindoni

I was on my way home from fighting with
immigration
I sat quietly because I had done enough
talking that day:
And little did I know
I heard on the car radio
I started crying
I thought: I always cried when somebody
dies
no, I cried because there was no more
time for her
that was that, done and over with
now just the memories and the discoveries
I never knew the details of her strength
Now I understand why my intuition told me
she was strong! Yes, madame
Oh yeah, I did not make it up
It was not the result of a fertile
imagination
that woman was strong
I found her work post-mortem published
in the center
fold of a news paper
a beautiful tribute they did for her

big deal, they all thought she was crazy
She had asthma, all she needed was
a little air
ironic they found her strangled to death

When I heard the news I felt sad
never again will I see her green eyes,
I thought
sad because I did not know if anyone
would continue to pray for peace.
When I believed the news I felt relieved
for her
she would not have to stand the insults,
the put downs
the hurts, the loneliness when the attacks
came on.
I wonder if she knew that was the last
time she was grasping for air
all she wanted was a little air
she had asthma
ironic they found her strangled to death

Now her spirit may have the space she
needed
on yeah, even though it will be memory
space
because she will be remembered.
there is always someone praying for the
long waited peace
let us remember Kathe Kullwitz who
never stopped to want peace
let us remember all the peace loving
spirits who are now
in our memories still waiting for peace
let me remember Gina who waits for peace

all she waited was for a little air
she had asthma
ironic they found her strangled to death

by Celina Leite
Cavalcanti

Women and A.I.D.S., cont'd

cont'd from p. 5

get a sense of how the right wing
lumps us together in a neat little
package. The physical health and
civil liberties of women and gay
men are increasingly at stake
under the Reagan regime, and AIDS
is easy to manipulate into a
divisive and punitive moral issue.
The prejudice against anyone who
tries to assert their independence
from the traditional family model,
the destruction of laws prohibiting
discrimination, the erosion of the
right to privacy for sexuality
(under which the right wing included
abortion), the refusal of the govern-
ment to produce accurate and non-
judgmental educational material
about safe sex and safe IV needle
use, and the ignorance of medical
professionals outside urban areas
about AIDS (and even in urban
areas if the patient is female or
not obviously a member of a risk
group) are all problems which have
a major impact on women. It is past
time for feminist groups to include
AIDS on their agenda. AIDS touches
on all of the issues feminists have
been concerned with for years:
education about our bodies, and the
right and ability to make choices
for which we are not penalized.

If women--and especially lesbians--
as a community seem less affected
by AIDS, it is primarily because
we have not addressed the issue in
a thoughtful way. Lesbians have
AIDS; straight women have AIDS.
If we have AIDS in lower numbers,
we have experienced more than our
share of the backlash. Lesbians
are included in the repressive
legislation designed to limit the
freedom of gay men, because, as one
state legislator said, "They are
perverted, too." Prostitutes
have been caught in police sweeps
on the pretext of public health.
Historically in the U.S., whenever
prostitutes are subjected to
stricter state repression, increased
penalties for their amateur sisters
are not far behind. Most main-
stream feminists have averted
their eyes from the rapid loss of
sexual freedom--which includes
freedom to know about and make
choices about sexually trans-
mitted disease. Feminists have
tended to deny that we, our friends,
or even unknown women are signif-
icantly at risk for AIDS, or that
because of AIDS hysteria women
are at risk of having children
taken away, losing welfare benefits,
or being quarantined. Many feminists
have lured themselves into thinking
that because we--as a community--
have so far been spared to a degree
the onslaught experienced by gay

men and IV drug users (ain't they
women?), we are immune from AIDS.
As a feminist and a gay activist,
the denial I see in the women's
community feels very much like the
denial among gay men five years ago:
"It can't happen here," "We aren't
like those faggots in New York,"
"We aren't like..."

Those feminists who have been
involved in AIDS organizing experience
frustration and anger at our sisters'
callous attitudes and refusal to
believe the magnitude of the political
and health problems caused by the
AIDS epidemic. It can happen here,
and it is happening here. It is
essential that organized feminists
advocate for accurate and non-
judgmental information about risk
reduction that clearly explains
low-risk sexual and drug use
practices. Equally, as the political
backlash of AIDS sweeps through
our communities, often in advance
of actual cases of AIDS, feminists
must recognize and work with other
communities in developing strategies
to promote the right to privacy,
quality health care, and policies
that promote self-determination.

Two decades of second-wave
feminism have taught women to extend
our understanding of our own
experience in order to find common-
ality with other women. Five years
into the AIDS epidemic, feminists
should make good on the promise
of "global feminism." AIDS in the
U.S. and internationally provides
ample problem areas for connecting
with feminist analysis and practice.
How can you get involved?

First and foremost, educate your-
self. Probably the best single medical
overview is *The AIDS Fact Book*, by Ken
Mayer, a physician and researcher at
Brown University and at the Fenway
Community Health Center in Boston.
For more up-to-date information,
the AIDS Action Committee of Boston
has a pamphlet on women and AIDS, as
well as other educational materials
and resources (617-536-7733 or 800-
235-2331 in Massachusetts). Get your
facts right so that when you read
the newspapers or see the TV news
you can be critical.

Don't let friends or colleagues
make AIDS jokes, give inaccurate
information, or pass moral judg-
ment on people who have AIDS. One
of the major obstacles to education
is prejudice. Your comment may be
the one that makes the difference.
Get educational material for friends
or colleagues.

Invite in-service training at
your workplace, or educational
forums at your political groups.
The AIDS Action Committee is happy

to send people anywhere. When it
is possible, a person with AIDS
will come with health educators to
talk about his/her experience with
the disease. Being able to meet a
person with AIDS and open up to a
discussion of fears is one of
the most crucial ways of humanizing
the disease and putting anxieties
and prejudices in perspective.

Work with the AIDS Action Committee
or a similar organization in your
area. Find out what has been done
already, and what needs doing.

Find creative ways to incorporate
AIDS concerns into the issues your
groups already work on. When health
care issues come up, be sure that
AIDS is featured as a health concern.
In areas of sexual freedom and civil
liberties, be sure that you under-
stand what policies are already being
changed in your state. Quarantine
is a very active issue in a number
of states, and will be especially
restrictive for prostitutes. In
addition, mandatory HTLV-III
antibody testing is already in place
in the army, and other employers
are trying to follow suit. The test
is controversial and has already
jeopardized the civil rights and
insurability of gay men and IV drug
users. Children with AIDS or whose
parents have AIDS may not be allowed
in school, or may be taken away
from their families. Include AIDS in
discussions of welfare policy and
child custody.

Cindy Patton is chairperson of the
AIDS Action Committee of Boston and
is on the Fenway's Institutional
Review Board, which oversees AIDS
research. Her forthcoming book,
Sex and Germs: the Politics of AIDS,
will be published by South End Press
in December.

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with permission from Cindy Patton

Info., cont'd

cont'd from p. 5

entering the vagina, rectum or
mouth. As is the case with trans-
mission between IV drug users,
the infected person may not show
symptoms. There are no reported
cases of AIDS transmission between
lesbians. There are, however, several
cases reported where men appear to
have gotten AIDS from apparently
healthy women who used IV drugs.
It is unknown whether these men
contracted AIDS from blood associated
with sex or from vaginal secretions.

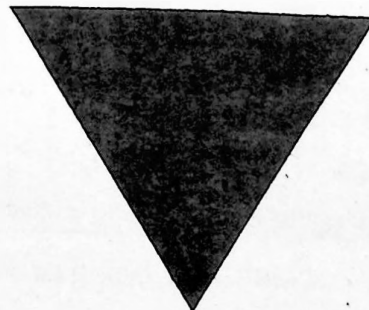
RISK REDUCTION

Research indicates that AIDS is
not contracted merely by being near,
eating with, or touching a person with
AIDS. AIDS appears to be trans-
mitted through semen, blood, other
bodily fluids mixed with blood, and
perhaps urine and feces. The incu-
bation period seems to be six
months to three years, and a person
may spread AIDS while showing no
symptoms. Some risk reduction
guidelines:

If you are an intravenous drug
user, do not share needles.

Especially if you have sexual
relations with people who are in
risk groups (IV drug users, sexual
partners of people at risk, blood
transfusion recipients), do not
allow blood, semen, urine or feces
from your partner to enter your
body through the mouth, vagina,
rectum, or open cuts and sores.
(A condom should be used during
intercourse.) These guidelines
are wise in any sexual encounter,
since it may be difficult to know
if your partner is at risk.

Be aware of symptoms of AIDS
and seek medical care when necessary.
Have regular checkups, preferably
with the same care provider, who can
get to know you and your normal
state of health.



Behind the Lines

by Catherine Lathwell

Dear WV,

I don't really know what to do with the attached article, so I'm sending it to you in hopes that you'll print it sometime. I don't mean to offend anyone (except possibly my mother, she'll get over it), I had fun writing it, and hope you'll have fun reading it.

Catherine Lathwell

(NOTE FROM THE STAFF: Half of us were offended, half of us loved it. We hope you will have fun reading it. We would like to add that we do not endorse: living with Republicans, doing laundry, using diaphragms to make funny noises, or feeling guilty.)

I guess it is fitting that I should begin with Mother. She was truly disappointed when the sixties brought about the seventies which in turn brought about the eighties. Dad took the low road while she and the kids took the high through the Swarthmore College degree and on to the MD. So, here I am, a twenty year old lump of undefined, living with-"Oh Catherine!"-a REPUBLICAN, "But mother, he didn't vote for Reagan," in the middle of the woods, "I didn't DROP OUT Mom, I'm just taking a year... or so, OFF," bare-foot at the moment but not planning on (or, as I should say, taking specific precautions against) the pregnant part.

I was doing the laundry while pretending to work on a paper that was due only a year ago, (in hopes that if I smiled enough someone would be willing to read it), gave that up. Does anyone really care that a significant number of people in this country die due to insufficient health care, anyway? I came up with this crazy notion, that instead of proceeding with the drudgery of the development of Medicare/Medicaid programs which now barely exist, I might have something vaguely humorous to write about. "I would make a great lawyer Mom, after six more years of living in poverty falling asleep over mountains of books and papers to graduate into a crew of fat, sexually frustrated, middle-aged men who might be able to take me seriously when I'm fifty. Some idiot will have blown up the world by then." Hell, the only thing the New Yorker can do is advise me not to touch a typewriter again in the name of the sanctity of the written word.

I must confess, it's my notion of feminism that is bothering me at the moment. OK, so I'm doing the laundry, and what's worse, I am putting it away too. On the other hand, I am the one who was allowed to stay home today (Confession number two: I am only working part time at the moment) and do things like read and type; by the way, I am only reading what I want to read; a great luxury in this age of advanced education. As I see it, blindly maybe, I am a happy and

satisfied person at the moment. Cris Williamson said something interesting at the Iron Horse last night (a rad-fem singer, maybe I'm saved?). She said that guilt is a very weird human thing, as I remember the quote, "We feel guilty even when we don't feel guilty because we feel we should be feeling guilty." I find that I get upset doing the laundry when I start to worry that I don't really mind doing the laundry. Theoretically, I shouldn't be doing all of the laundry. Well, I don't do all of the laundry, but I certainly do more than half of the laundry. I also bring in less than half of the income. Although this has not always been the case, there have been times when I have brought in more than half of the income and done less than half of the laundry, at the moment I am on the other end so, I spend the time while putting the dirty laundry in the washer and taking the clean laundry out of the dryer trying to decide if I should be doing it or not. This if of course, a fruitless use of brain cells. One gets stuck in pondering the paradox between principle and actual feeling until finally one can no longer grasp the "true" feeling or understand the principle. And I still do the laundry.

I have this same sort of problem with the information about the Sexual Revolution that gets filtered down to my generation. Maybe I'm wrong,

I don't know, I wasn't there, but as I gather it, since the coming of the Sexual Revolution, there is something improper about the woman always being on the bottom, I don't mean to imply that my sexual experience is limited to missionary style intercourse. I don't know how many people use the diaphragm; as birth control goes, it's not bad, but I have found that due to certain angles of the male and female anatomy, I don't mean to generalize but in my experience it does seem to be the case that when using a diaphragm with the woman on top there is a distressing "fillump" with each thrust. This is the man's penis catching on the edge of the diaphragm, breaking suction thus dropping the diaphragm's effectiveness significantly; it doesn't feel that great either. I mean no disrespect to young mothers, but pregnancy and childbirth are number one on my list of ways to ruin my life, so being the practical person I am, I rarely climb atop my lover. And of course, get caught chasing my tail once again pondering the significance of my "submissive" position during intercourse. To be honest, I am glad I am not well read in Freudian thought. Now, in disturbing the universe, or at least my, er... ah... significant other, I come to the overwhelming question: Am I a feminist? I'd like to think so, but there seems to be some overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Well, sorry Mom, but for a time, I'll define myself as an undefined lump, and be happy doing so.



Woman's Recovery Blocked, cont'd

cont'd from p. 3

to comply. that deadline is now past and the OHFC has indicated they will be reinspecting the status of the correction order this week. The nursing home has been notified that Karen wished to visit and is still denying her access based on the guardian's wishes. the OHFC has indicated that no court order can allow a guardian the right to violate the Patient's Bill of Rights. Meanwhile, court action initiated by Karen's attorneys, the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union and Sharon's court appointed attorney, is pending at the Minnesota State Court of Appeals. They are appealing the July 23 District Court order which gave Donald Kowalski, Sharon's father, full guardianship and removed all of Karen's rights. This decision resulted in the guardian's denial of visitation by Karen and the placement of Sharon in a non-court approved nursing facility. Sharon's and Karen's civil rights are continuing to be violated. There is substantial evidence that Sharon has a much greater ability of communication, making decisions, and regaining skills than some want to admit. For instance, Sharon regularly types out lucid answers to questions on a typewriter. As long

as Sharon is deemed "incompetent" her father will have control over her life. This control can and is being exercised regardless of the expressed wishes of Sharon herself to continue to see Thompson.

THE ISSUES

1. Homophobia (the fear and hatred of lesbians and gay men) runs deep in our society. Could it be that Sharon's parents would rather keep their daughter in a vegetative state than deal with her as a lesbian? By their actions, Sharon's parents are trying to block the person most likely to help Sharon's chances of recovery.
2. Sharon has the right to maximum recovery and quality of life. Service organizations have documented the importance of getting a person into a home environment. Sharon has chosen to live with Karen as an adult and Karen wants to care for Sharon now. If Karen and Sharon had been married, there would be no question about where Sharon could live under these circumstances.
3. A substantial amount of money may be forthcoming from the personal injury suit being pursued by the same attorney who is representing Sharon's father

and guardian. The extent of the injury and accompanying disabilities become important factors in the amount of a settlement award. Is there a conflict of interest in the roles of the parents and their attorney? Karen Thompson has filed for guardianship of the person, not the estate. She will not benefit from any settlement.

There is a strong need to help cover the legal cost of this case. To make a tax-deductible donation or to sponsor a fundraiser, contact Minnesota Gay and Lesbian Legal Assistance or the Minnesota Society for Personal Liberties. c/o Suzanne Born, 3436 Holmes Ave., Minneapolis MN 55408.

Abortion, cont'd

cont'd from p. 3

the New Right does not succeed in attaching their amendments to the new resolution; their will could influence the approval plans for family planning in the future appropriations. Public support is needed immediately if the family planning program is to continue. Citizens must contact the appropriate Congressperson in their district. Another continuing resolution might have to be approved since Congress is backlogged in budget work, and because President Reagan will most likely not return before Geneva before Nov. 20. However, it is still urgent for citizens or Western Massachusetts to write, send telegrams to or call Congressman Conte or Boland in their offices. Although both have supported family planning in the past, both are anti-abortion, and since Conte and Boland are on the appropriations committee, their votes will be crucial.

EDITOR'S NOTE. Another continuing resolution has indeed been approved. Emergency funding for Family Planning has been extended until Dec. 12. Please use this temporary reprieve to write your congresspeople!

Audre Lorde, cont'd

Later a woman asked her about living and working for change, as opposed to living in academia.

Lorde answered that no matter where you are, no matter what you are doing, you just have to keep talking to people and keep working.

"If you are digging ditches, you dig a feminist ditch," she said. Lorde said it is important to use all possible methods of struggle because "what we do not use will be used against us."

It is hard to decide what course to teach, what to say, what struggle to put yourself into, she added. Her poem titled "Station" drew laughter from the audience. It was about women waiting.

"Some women wait for the right turn in the wrong station."

"Some women wait from themselves around the corner and call it peace." But she said it was time we all learned that "the opposite of living is dying and the stars do not care."

After the reading, she was asked why she chose poetry as her main medium. Someone else shouted, "What was the question?" She replied: "Someone asked me why I use poetry as my main weapon."

**and we learned to know
lonely/ like the earth
learns to know god.**

The only real way to change things is to alter the way people feel, she explained. Because she did not talk until she was four, she said she has always had a great respect for words, adding, "poetry is the most subversive and powerful use of words."

"I do not remember the words of my first poem but I remember promising my pen never to leave it lying in someone else's blood," she said.

Gay Games

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS AND ATHLETICS announces two contests for Gay Games II and Cultural Week to be held in August of 1986. Both are open to gay and lesbian artists throughout the world.

The first will select theme music for the Games to be performed at the culmination of Closing Ceremonies. Rules of the contest are as follows:
*The music must be written for soprano-alto-tenor-bass chorus. It should reflect the spirit and pride of the gay and lesbian community as expressed in Gay Games II.

*It should be arranged with verse to be sung by a chorus with audience participation during the refrain. Instrumentation should be limited to piano or piano and small stage band. *Length of the piece should be 3-5 minutes.

*Musicians are encouraged to also submit a tape of the composition, but this is not required. Scores and tapes, if submitted, will be returned upon request.

*The composer will be acknowledged in the Official Program along with a biographical sketch.

*Vocal and musical sketch must be received by January 1, 1986. Final arrangement must be completed by March 31, 1986.

Compositions will be judged by a panel of professional musicians from Bay Area performing groups. The winner agrees to grant performance rights to San Francisco Arts and Athletics, with further use to be negotiated.

To submit entries or for further information, contact:
Katherine Krebs
Director of Ceremonies
207 Day St.
San Francisco, CA 94131

Gay Games II is also sponsoring a Fine Arts Poster Contest. Artists are encouraged to submit their work for consideration as one of the GGII official posters.

The contest will culminate in a major exhibit of gay and lesbian artwork to be held during the week of the Games. The top three finishers will be invited to show more of their artwork during the juried exhibit.

Artwork to be submitted must be 16" by 23". Overall size of the posters, including border, will be 22" by 31". Artists should consider the major themes of Gay Games II:

*Everyone is a winner--athletes, volunteers, spectators;
*GGII encourages participation from men and women, minorities, the physically challenged and those of all age groups;

*The events are truly international in scope and will attract athletes and spectators from many different countries.

These high quality posters will be reproduced in full color on heavy stock. All posters will credit the artist and his/her hometown. They will be distributed in gay and lesbian communities throughout the world.

Artists should study the Official Rules carefully before submitting entries. Original artwork must be received at the Gay Games office by February 1, 1986.

For complete Rules and Entry form, write or call:
Poster Competition
Gay Games II
526 Castro St.
San Francisco, CA 94117
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cont'd from p. 7

again this Monday while the Pisces Moon tempts us to drift into fantasy and/or alcohol or drugs. Try to resist as Tuesday holds more surprises. Our relationships and social lives is where these unexpected happenings occur. Love at first meeting may reveal a new person, dazzling in appearance. If something develops, it will be exciting, but unstable. It's best to wait awhile and let this new relationship prove itself. Thursday brings a vibrant and imaginative influence, giving us a chance to express our creativity and idealism in a way we've always wanted. Friday is relatively calm and may even be uneventful. Saturday afternoon the Moon enters Taurus and in the evening, the Sun moves into Capricorn. This second sign change is the Winter Solstice, occurring at 5:08 pm. The influence of the Taurus Moon may stabilize things somewhat, but Solstices often bring major events into people's lives. If this is the case for you, use Sunday and Monday to re-group.

4th week December 23-29

The Sun immediately joins the planet Neptune, which is presently residing in the early degrees of Capricorn. Those of

you born during the final week of December, March, June or September are bound to experience a strong reaction to this planetary alignment. This whole week works up to extremely intense energies happening at the end. The Full Moon occurs on Friday at 2:30 am, which is to say that things begin to accelerate on Tuesday and maybe sooner. Wednesday's astrological influence is one of the most sinister and threatening possible. It is accompanied by currents of deception, illusion and unpredictability. There are two protective influences operating simultaneously, but they need your conscious cooperation to succeed. If you go along without thinking these final days, danger and sorrow may find a home in your life. Pay attention to everything you're doing, and avoid overindulgence in all drugs, especially alcohol, which flows excessively these weeks. Sunday is a restful day and brings love and compassion our way. These feelings are what the season is supposed to be all about, so try to keep this in mind as you whirl from table to party to family to friends. Good cheer from the heart is always better than good cheer

from the bottle anyway. This month's question is one familiar to most of us who can afford a car. It was asked by a woman who already owns one but is interested in buying another, better one. She uses her car daily and recently began driving out of state on a regular basis. Hence her question: "Should I buy the Corolla?"

The chart for her question reveals a great deal of tension, though it's not directly related to her. The answer, however, is very clear and definite: no, she should not buy the Corolla as this car has a lot of problems that will be the source of a lot of stress and expense. It is really much more run down and damaged than it appears. The seller is keeping important facts hidden from her, as well as being generally offensive himself. He is manipulating the situation and trying to coerce our querent. Her present car, however, shows itself in the only favorable aspect in the chart, and this aspect is to the planet that rules the querent. The chart also suggests that part of why she wants a new car is to enhance her professional image, but this is not the car to try


this with. Her present car may not be what she wants to be seen in, but it will certainly serve her better and get her to places she needs to be. Being late because of car problems will do much more to damage her professional image than her presently owned car. In fact, her car shows through a planet that is very strong and fortified, and this vehicle will probably last much longer than she thinks. She is advised to keep her faithful and reliable car for the present time and continue to search for another that is more in keeping with her professional image, without draining her of her newly increased finances.

Thank you all for submitting questions, and I encourage you once again to take advantage of this most helpful branch on the Tree of Astrology.



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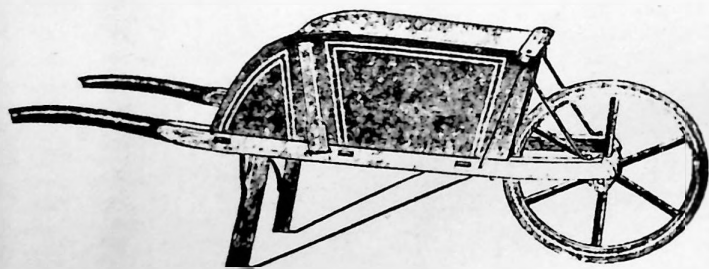
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Farm Women, cont'd.



Liz says she is trying to get away from the tillage style of farming. She has been influenced by Fukvoka, who wrote *The One Straw Revolution*.

She uses permanent beds with a short clover variety growing in between. This acts as a good mulch.

Liz also raises feeder lambs with another farm. The sheep are fed with her own hay and the rest is used for mulch. There are also plans underway for producing hard cider with another farm.

Networking is an important component in organic farming. People come together to share knowledge of new plant varieties, styles of pest management, and methods to improve sales.

The name Unadilla is an Iroquois name for "meeting place". Liz believes this name originated from the many crows that gather every day at the same time over a spot where two streams come together.

I believe the word will take on a new meaning as this farm continues production. With its octagonal barn and passive solar house, Unadilla is a model of striving for a "lighter" way of life.

Julie Chickering

This past summer Julie Chickering managed *Unadilla Farm* in Dennis, Mass., where she grew two acres of vegetables and ran a retail stand.

She has had experience working on other people's farms, but this summer got a taste of what it's like to run her own business, of the capital it takes to get started.

Despite the hard work, Julie appreciated this hands-on experience. Presently she is studying at UMass, where she is creating her own degree in ecological agriculture through the BDIC (Bachelor's Degree with Individual Concentration) Program.

During the spring semester ('85) she studied at New Alchemy Institute, where she gained invaluable knowledge and experience.

Julie's vision of "saving the world" is growing food in a sustainable manner. She is taking classes in Animal Science, Plant and Soil Science, and Agricultural Economics.

She says it is difficult due to the linear/male/reductionist mode of science. She finds it a paradox, studying science so that she can farm intelligently and change science's attitude to a more ecological and feminist framework.

Julie sees herself as a "bridge" between organic and conventional agriculture. She doesn't want to be part of a separatist culture, she wants to affect people and make what she sees as real change.

She wants to prove with her life that organic farming can work, and on more levels than purely economic (i.e., spiritual renewal, peace-work, and holistic health). She says "agriculture is culture" and our conventional method of farming is in great need of a healthy means of growing food; when that changes, it will be a reflection of a healthier culture.

Here are a few organizations that offer information about organic farming:

New England Small Farm Institute
Jackson Road
Belchertown MA 01007
(offers apprenticeships)

Valley Community Land Trust
151 Montague City Road
Greenfield MA 01301

Natural Organic Farms Assoc'n.
21 Great Plain Ave.
Wellesley MA 02181
Attn: Stacy Miller

New Alchemy Institute
237-A Hatchville Rd.
Hatchville MA 02536

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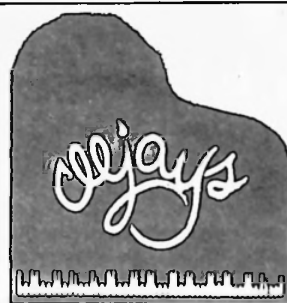
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Announcements

CLEIS

Cleis Press, a women's publishing company, will read full-length (100-350 pp) nonfiction prose manuscripts through February 1, 1986. The press is seeking new titles which will continue their commitment to publishing important books of interest to women.

Nonfiction prose manuscripts, either single-author titles, anthologies or translations, may be sent to Felice Newman at the address below. All manuscripts must include SASE. Authors will be contacted after the deadline.

Since 1980 Cleis Press has published books of interest to a progressive, feminist trade audience. Most recently, the Press published *With the Power of Each Breath: A Disabled Women's Anthology*. This book has been reviewed in *Publisher's Weekly*, *Booklist*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Kinesis*, and *Off Our Backs*, as well as other trade, feminist and general publications. In early 1986, Cleis will publish Alicia Partnoy's account of her disappearance and survival in Argentina.

Prospective authors are encouraged to become familiar with previous Cleis titles, and may request a catalog from the address below.

Felice Newman, co-editor
Cleis Press
PO Box 8933
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(412) 731-3863

announcing a lesbian network in central mass

ASHBY, MA — A network is being formed to help lesbians who live in central Massachusetts and far from lesbian/gay communities and services to meet each other. Lesbians Inviting New Connections (LINC) will provide members with a list of women wanting to make contact with other women; first names, phone or P.O. box numbers, and lists of interests are included. Lesbians and bisexual women of all ages, colors, shapes and sizes, single, coupled, or in other situations are invited to participate. There is no fee for membership. For information, write to LINC, P.O. Box 52, Ashby, MA 01431.

— Stephanie Poggi

boston against aids

BOSTON — A "Boston Against AIDS" benefit is being planned jointly by the AIDS Action Committee (AAC), and radio stations WBCN-FM and WXS-FM (KISS) at the Metro. Tentatively scheduled to appear at the December 4 benefit are pop entertainers Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach.

Harry Collings of the AIDS Action Committee said 2,000 tickets will be offered for sale at \$50 apiece and that all proceeds will go directly to the AAC and to the Massachusetts General Hospital AIDS research unit. All labor is being donated by both entertainers and organizers and the Metro has donated the space for the night. "One hundred percent of the proceeds" will go directly to fight AIDS, said Collings.

According to Boston *Herald* columnist Norma Nathan, others who are being asked to entertain or give support to the event are the Four Tops and Cyndi Lauper, as well as Boston Celtics Basketball players Bill Walton, Larry Bird, and ex-Celtic Dave Cowens.

— Christine Guillot

TRIVIA, A FEMINIST LITERARY journal, is looking for volunteers to help with layout, paste-up, mailings, and office work. If interested, call (413) 367-2254, or write to TRIVIA, Box 606, Amherst, MA, 01059

WOMEN'S LEGAL DEFENSE FUND launches Project to counter homophobia in custody decisions: The WLDF launched a lesbian and gay custody project in September with funds from the Chicago Resource Center. Among other activities, the project will prepare training materials for the attorneys who represent gay or lesbian parents. For more info, contact WLDF, 2000 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

JEWISH WOMEN AND THE INTERNATIONAL Feminist Movement: The View From Nairobi", is a talk by Reena Bernards, executive director of New Jewish Agenda, and Christie Balko, former NJA co-chair. They will speak in Northampton on Dec. 3 (place and time to be announced). Would you like to help make this event happen? Write: New Jewish Agenda, P.O. Box 1164, Northampton, MA, 01061

THEATER, TOO, A FEMINIST THEATER company, seeks women interested in working on the March production of "Ruby Christmas" by Sarah Dreher. Needed are an assistant director/stage manager, set designer, sound and lighting technicians, and a construction crew. Those interested should contact Lis Brooks (producer) at 256-8397. "Ruby Christmas" is a powerful play about a family in conflict over the daughter's lesbianism. Playwright Sarah Dreher is this year's winner of the National Lesbian Playwriting Award for her work "8 x 10 Glossy". Theater, Too is a local group that recognizes that we have lives to live outside of the theater, and welcomes women with varying time commitments and levels of theater experience.

Necessities/Necesidades, an organization offering many services to women and children who are abused needs more safe-homes for short term emergency shelter (up to three days). If able to help, please call 586-1125

HERIZON MEMBERS, WHERE ARE YOU? The Binghamton NY women's social club is celebrating its 10th anniversary starting New Year's 1986. Please tell us your whereabouts so we can include you in the celebration. SASE to Herizon P.O. Box 1082, Binghamton NY 13902.

THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY Economics assists groups which address urgent land, housing, and capital needs of the poor. We're seeking additional staff: Loan Fund Assistant Manager, Technical Assistance Providers, and Bookkeeper/Secretary. Exciting work; modest compensation; collective support. Write: ICE, attn: Michael Brown, 151 Montague City Rd., Greenfield, MA 01301

PRODUCTION TALENT AND/OR TRAINEES: poetry project with the Valley Women's Voice needs editorial assistants, typesetters, illustrators, paste-up women and more. Call now for details. VWV - 545-2436 (leave msg. for Bonnie).

Asian lesbians

Asian lesbians living in the United States have started a newsletter for Asian lesbians everywhere, particularly, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Afghani, Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Nepalese and Burmese lesbians.

The new publication, *Anamika*, is \$3 an issue. Write: Anamika, c/o ALOEC, PO Box 850, New York, NY 10002, USA.

TEMPORARY HOUSING NEEDED: FOR students taking part in *Up and Out Theater Intensive* this January 13th through 24th in Northampton. Housing needed near transportation in Northampton and Amherst center. Call Emma Missouri at Butterfly Arts at (413) 586-5886.

Faced With A Drinking Problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can help. Local gay and lesbian AA group is one of many area groups meeting regularly; call 732-9283 for more info.

CONSTRUYAMOS JUNTOS IS A CONSTRUCTION brigade centered in Western Mass. that will leave for Nicaragua this January to build a school as a concrete symbol of their solidarity with that nation. Presently the brigade is seeking both new members and donations. People with Spanish language and/or health care skills are especially encouraged to join, while those unable to make that commitment are also asked to donate money for building materials and tools. The success of the project depends upon raising \$15,000 for the construction alone (participants pay their own travel and living expenses, though a sponsorship does exist for a low-income or unemployed member). Construyamos Juntos meets alternating Wednesdays at 7:30pm at 16 Armory Street in Northampton. Prospective members are encouraged to attend or may send for an application and information to: Construyamos Juntos, P.O. Box 1261 Northampton, MA. 01061. For further information call (413) 586-2355 or 367-9352.

DO YOU WANT SOMETHING INTERESTING to do with your time? Franklin Alternatives in Greenfield needs volunteers. We sponsor the Blue Light Coffeehouse, Thyme and Again Bookstore/Cafe and other community events. For more information call (413) 772-6110.

ARTICLES SOUGHT FOR WOMEN'S LAW Journal. The *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* is a forum for publication of articles, notes, comments, and book reviews on legal questions affecting women. The Journal is currently seeking articles for publication in the spring of 1986. They are interested in publishing work by attorneys in areas pertinent to women, particularly underrepresented women.

GIFTS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA invites schools, religious and civic groups to collect medical and educational supplies for children, refugees and victims of war during the holiday season. For information, call the American Friends Service Committee, (617) 661-6130.

WOMYN'S LAND CONFERENCE - We would like to organize a conference for the fall of 1986 to discuss and analyze the various issues involved in community living. We need womyn who are interested in living on the land and in community with other womyn to help organize specific aspects of the conference such as food, health care, etc. If you are interested in attending or in helping plan this conference, please drop us a line. Send SASE to: WLC, c/o Heathcote Community, 21300 Heathcote Road, Freeland, Maryland, 21053.

Wanted: Wonderful wimmin dedicated to acknowledging and resisting patriarchal oppression to come live and work with other wonderful wimmin on 52 acres of wimmin's land in Mid-Upstate New York. We can offer food, room and board, healing space, ritual space, music, creativity, and commitment to woman love and struggle. For more info: Wimmin's Peace Camps, 440 Rt. 96, Romulus, NY, 14541

Also needed: Paint supplies of all kinds (as well as paints) to prepare camp for winter

VALLEY WOMEN'S MARTIAL ARTS, INC., a non-profit, tax-exempt Karate and self-defense school for women and girls, announces a new series of 10-week Beginning Karate classes. Times are as follows: Begins Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 11 am - 12:30 pm. Meets once a week. Begins Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 4 - 5:30 pm. Meets once a week. Begins Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 6 - 7:30 pm. Meets Tuesday and Thursday. VMA, Inc. offers free self-defense classes and workshops for women and girls, and for girls and boys aged 7 to 12 years. Saturday, Dec. 14th, 1-4 pm, Workshop for women and girls, ages 7 and up. Free self-defense class for girls and boys meets on Saturdays. Call 527-0101 for details.

GRAPHICS AND POETRY SUBMISSIONS sought from Valley women for Spring issue of feminist literary publication. Two or more works w/SASE must be received by Jan. 15 at: VWV, c/o Everywoman's Center, Wilder Hall, UMass Amherst MA 01003, Attn: Bonnie.

★ Everywoman's Center ★

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN ---

The Resource/Referral Program is looking for community volunteers and student interns to staff the Resource Room for the Fall. Community and University women are invited to apply. Volunteers and interns provide information about area services and events; medical and legal referrals, and maintain resource information on many topics of concern to women. Orientation and on-going training is provided. For more information, a job description, and an application form, contact Sandy Mandel, Resource/Referral Coordinator, at the EWC

"PMS: Gaining Control" is a series of 4 workshops for women with Premenstrual Syndrome to learn more about the condition and how to control it. Workshops will be held on Thursdays, Nov. 7, Nov. 21, and Dec. 5. All sessions will meet at 7:30 pm at the EWC. Workshops are free and attendance at all sessions is preferred but not required.

Calendar

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Herpes Lecture/ Discussion
Free educational lecture/ discussion for those interested in learning more facts about herpes will be sponsored by the UMass Health Services at 6:30 pm in the University Health Center, Room 304. Debra Edelman, Health Educator, and Sheila Hayes, Nurse Practitioner, will speak on various facts and myths about the disease. People are encouraged to attend even if they don't have herpes. Please register by calling Health Education at 549-2671, ext. 181. Registration is limited so call soon.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

"PMS: Gaining Control" is a series of four workshops for women with Premenstrual Syndrome to learn more about the condition and how to control it. The fourth workshop will take place at 7:30 pm at the Everywoman Center, Wilder Hall, UMass. The focus will be on non-traditional health care alternatives and their effectiveness in treating PMS symptoms. The workshop is free and registration is requested. For more info contact the Resource/Referral Program of Everywoman's Center at 545-0883.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

New Moon Coffeehouse sponsored by local women's support group and survival network. 7:30 pm, at the Wendell Town Hall. Features local women talent. Dancing will follow the show. Donation at the door - \$2.50. Call (617) 544-8842, or 544-3592 for more details.

NALL Workers Day from 3-6pm. Experience not needed. Call 584-7616.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

"Enormous Changes at the Last Minute" will be shown as a part of the Women's Film Festival sponsored by the Women's Leadership Project at UMass. "Enormous Changes" is a film incorporating three short stories by Grace Paley. It will be shown at 7 and 9 pm in Campus Center room 101 on the UMass campus. The film is free and open to all.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Endometriosis Association
A Western Mass. chapter of the National Endometriosis Association is forming now. Endometriosis affects 5 million women in the U.S. It is characterized by severe pain before and during menstruation, pain during sexual activity, and heavy or irregular bleeding. Some women experience no symptoms. Left untreated, "endo" can cause increasing pain, damage to organs and tissue, and infertility. The causes of endometriosis are unknown and there is no cure. The Endometriosis Association promotes research, education, discussion, and support among women with "endo". The first meeting will be from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at EWC, in Wilder Hall at UMass. For more info, contact the Resource/Referral Program of EWC at 545-0883.

DECEMBER 15

Lesbians of Greater Springfield (LOGS) general meeting from 11 am - 1 pm. Refreshments provided. 786-4489.

DECEMBER 15

Christmas celebration in Springfield from 6 pm to whenever. LOGS: 786-4489.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Arab-Israeli Women Dialogue at Nairobi: A First-Hand Report. At 7:30 pm in the Beyond Words Conference Center (Thornes Market, Northampton), Khevre will present a report by Reena Bernards on a historic dialogue for peace between Israeli and Palestinian feminists at the United Nations International Women's Conference in Nairobi last summer. Reena Bernards, national Executive Director of New Jewish Agenda, attended the conference and co-facilitated a workshop entitled "Israeli and Palestinian Women in Dialogue: A Search for Peace."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

ISO'S BISEXUAL WOMEN'S SUPPORT group meets the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Bangs Community Center on Boltwood Walk in Amherst. We are open to new members, and to visitors. For more info, write to ISO, c/o the VWV, at the Everywoman Center, with a SASE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Open meeting of Western Mass. Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay Children and Friends (PFLAG) will be held at 7:30 pm at the Young Women's Association (YWCA), 137 Chestnut St., in Springfield. All parents, children and friends welcome. For further info, call (413) 732-0677.

DECEMBER 21

New Alexandria Lesbian Library (NALL) will have a winter solstice celebration. Storytelling and rituals for lesbians by Jay Goldspinner from 2-4 pm. Goddess stories and Amazons, witches and maids. Donation is \$3 for storytelling and ritual; \$5 includes a meal. Call 584-7616.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Women's Dance: Theater, Too, who brought you "8 x 10 Glossy" by Sarah Dreher last April, is now producing the Women's Dance in order to raise money for their upcoming March theater event. The Dance will take place at the Old School Commons in Northampton, and will be hosted by DJ Mary V. It will start at 9pm and continue till 1 am. Come dance the night away to the music of Mary V. Admission \$3-5. Accessible and chem free.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

Your Life is a Work of Art: An introduction to psychosynthesis at Beyond Words Conference Space, Thornes Market, Northampton, from 7 to 9 pm. Call the Synthesis Center for details, 256-0772.

Classifieds

Office space for rent in downtown Northampton. Am interested in either fully sharing the office or renting out blocks of time. Call Shirley at 628-3990.

Summit Bookkeeping Services for profit and non-profit small businesses. Dependable, reasonable. 774-2134.

Women wanted for State St., Northampton apartment. \$150 - \$200/month. Please call Joan at *536-3465 or 594-2141.

Looking for one or two lesbian feminists to share my Northampton home. Low rent, quiet street. 2 rooms available, office or studio space possible. Call 536-9435.

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